AC-4442(3)

DOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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J.A. Byrne, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H
Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. F.J. Harvey

Councillors

Mrs. E.K. Bridgestock	
Mrs. J.E. Church	
Mrs. F.J. Harvey	
Mrs. J.E. Heath	
Mrs. E.A. Manley	
G.E. Hearne	
K.J. Madge	
J.L.N. Natcott-West	
W.J. Parkin	
P.A.E. Parks	
W.H. Soundy M.B.E.	
R. Sutcliffe	
C.G. Lines	(January-May)
Miss S.D.M. Crocker	
J.A.A. Dodd	(January)
Mrs. A.M. Williamson	
W.T.L. Scott	
Rev. C.J.G. Barton	
N.W.S. Mitchison	(May-December)
Mrs. G. Payne	(April-December)

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Clerk to the Authority:
A. Syrett, M.B.E., D.M.A., F.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health:
C.F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:
J.A. Byrne, M.B., B. Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector:
W.O. Armstrong, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector:
J.K. Freathy, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant and Additional Public Health Inspector:
F.G. Ward, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. M. Swinerd	
Miss J. Surtees	
Miss J. Dash	(January-March)
Miss N.R. Condor	(April-December)

Health Department
86, Maison Dieu Road,
Dover, Kent.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Dover Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1968, during which period Dr. C.F. Lynch was your Medical Officer of Health. Dr. C.F. Lynch, who retired at the end of February of this year, had served the Rural Authority for nearly eighteen years and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

The presentation of this report has unfortunately been delayed by both medical and clerical staff difficulties which fortunately have now been resolved, on the medical side I am pleased to say by the appointment of Dr. J.Ll.T. Graham whom we welcomed as Deputy Medical Officer of Health on 2nd June, 1969.

When considering the year's vital statistics I would ask members not to attach too much importance or exaggerated significance to any apparent sudden rise or fall in a rate when comparing it with the rate for the previous year, as these statistics relate only to a comparatively very small population and should be considered together with those of adjoining areas over a period of years before any trend assessment can be made. This point is well illustrated in the maternal mortality rate, one such death in 1968 giving a rate of 4.4 per thousand total (live and still) births - over 18 times the national rate! - in fact this was the first maternal death recorded in the District since 1958.

It is gratifying from the all-important aspect of public health need to record the continued extension of the main drainage system throughout the District while reference to the number of properties supplied by mains water shows that over 99% of the estimated 5,129 dwellings were receiving this safe and carefully supervised water supply in adequate quanities; housing and other public health matters received their due attention during the year.

I am sure that Dr. Lynch would wish me on his behalf to thank you and the members of the Public Health and other Council staffs for the support and co-operation afforded him during 1968.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J.A. BYRNE

Medical Officer of Health

3rd September, 1969.

S E C T I O N A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone; and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel-le-Ferne, Denton with Wootton, Guston, Hougham-Without, Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, Shepherdswell with Coldred, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Temple Ewell with River, Whitfield.

Area (including inland water), 25,746 acres.

Population:	(a)	Estimated mid-year Home population -	14,640
	(b)	1961 Census figures	11,467
	(c)	1951 Census figures	10,504

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home population of 14,640)

Number of dwellings, 5129

Rateable Value £546,256

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £2,156

Density of population - Persons per acre 0.57

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1. Births: (figures as supplied by Registrar General);
   (a) Registered live births:-

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	106	106	212
Illegitimate	5	6	11
	111	112	223

Comparability Factor = 1.47

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	15.23
Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	14.48
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	0.75
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	22.39

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) = 9

2. Deaths

The figures used in this Report are those compiled from local returns adjusted for inward and outward transfers. The number of deaths registered during 1968 numbered 122, outward transfers 16 and inward transfers 85, giving a net allocation of 191. This figure is one less (Female) than that supplied by the Registrar General.

The death classification is obtained from the information submitted by the Local Registrar in his weekly returns.

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Registered	104	87	191

Comparability Factor:- 0.75

Crude death rate per 1,000 population - 13.05
Adjusted for comparative purposes - 9.79

3. Infant Mortality: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Infant mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 27

4. Death rates from cancer per 1,000 Home Population:

	Dover Rural District	England & Wales
(i) Lungs and Bronchus	0.41	0.593
(ii) Other	2.12	1.723
All Forms	2.53	2.316

Age groups in which deaths from cancer occurred:

ite:	I - 4		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 & over		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
mach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-
g, onchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	6	-
east	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
her sites	1	-	-	1	1	-	4	2	2	4	4	5	12	12
tal	1	-	-	1	1	-	6	2	5	5	8	7	21	15

There was one death from leukaemia of a female in the 75+ age group

5. Causes of Death in 1968: and Age Groups:

A revised cause classification of deaths has been introduced by the Registrar General in the mortality statistics for 1968 following the production by the World Health Organisation of the eighth edition of the "Manual of the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death". Deaths are now classified under 65 headings in lieu of the 36 in use up to the year 1967.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis - Late effects	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	6	-	6
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Other Malignat neoplasms	12	12	24
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2	3
Hypertensive Disease	3	2	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	12	30
Other Forms of Heart Disease	12	9	21
Cerebrovascular Disease	12	20	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	4	6
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	6	9	15
Bronchitis and Emphysema...	6	1	7
Asthma	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respitory System	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	X	1
Other Diseases Genito-urinary System	3	1	4
Other complications of pregnancy etc	X	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	2	3
Symptons and ill-defined conditions..	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	6	-	6
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	-	2
All other external causes	-	1	1
TOTAL	104	87	191

Age Groups in which Deaths occurred:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	3	3	6
1 year	-	-	-
2 - 4 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	2	1	3
25 - 44 years	4	1	5
45 - 64 years	23	11	34
65 - 74 years	24	22	46
75 and over	47	49	96
TOTALS	104	87	191

6. Comparative Rates:

	Dover Rural District		England & Wales
	1967	1968	1968
Per 1,000 Population			
Births:			
Live Births Crude	14.91	15.23	
Live Births Adjusted	21.92	22.39	16.9
Stillbirths:			
Per 1,000 total live and still births	18	9	14
Deaths:			
Crude	11.07	13.05	
Adjusted	8.08	9.79	11.9
Infant Deaths: (per 1,000 live births)			
All causes under 1 year	4.5 (1 death)	27 (6 deaths)	18
Maternal Mortality: (per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births):			
All causes	-	4.4 (1 death)	0.24

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the Local Hospital Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water etc. are carried out.

Hospitals:

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District but three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Board, provide appropriate facilities for general, medical, surgical, geriatric assessment, maternity and infectious cases.

St. Augustine's Nursing Home, Kearsney, a privately run Home, admits medical and surgical cases.

Nursing and Midwifery Services:

The Kent County Council as the administrative Authority responsible, provides these services in the Rural area, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information on the work of the services during 1968:-

(a)	Number of Home Nurses working in district	= 5
	Number of Patients attended	= 359
	Number of attendances (including casual visits)	= 7,508
(b)	Number of Midwives working in district	= 5
	Number of births attended	= 66

Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as the Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers, and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

PARISHES	ESTIMATED NO. OF DWELLINGS N.B. 1961 CENSUS AND NEW HOUSES 62-68 INCL.	NO. OF DWELLINGS ON MAINS WATER	REMARKS
Alkham	198	189	9 wells and/or rainwater tanks
Capel-le-Ferne	622	614	8 wells and/or rainwater tanks
Denton with Wootton	108	106	2 wells and/or rainwater tanks
Guston	214	214	
Hougham-Without	144	142	2 wells and/or rainwater tanks
Langdon	156	156	
Lydden	231	231	
Ringwould	594	594	
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe	783	782	1 well and/or rainwater tank
Shepherdswell with Coldred	491	491	
Temple Ewell with River	517	517	
Whitfield	1071	1070	1 well and/or rainwater tank
TOTAL	5129	5106	23 wells and/or rainwater tanks

Kingsdown - included in Ringwould Parish

Martin, Martin Mill - included in Langdon Parish

NOTE: There is one house, provided with an external standpipe only, in Alkham.

Over 99% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the 12 parishes in the District 10 are supplied by the Mid Kent Water Company and 2 by the Folkestone and District Water Company.

Three samples of water were taken from the mains supply for bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory. One sample of water was taken from the mains supply for chemical examination and the result was satisfactory. One sample was taken from a swimming pool and it was found necessary to adjust the treatment of the water to the pool.

Drainage and Sewerage

Work was completed on the main drainage scheme for Guston. There are now seven main drainage schemes in operation serving Capel-le-Ferne, Whitfield, Shepherdswell, Coldred, Lydden, part of Temple Ewell with River, Kingsdown, Ringwould, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Langdon and Guston. These systems discharge into the sewers of the adjoining Local Authorities of Dover, Folkestone and Deal.

Otherwise sewage is disposed of by cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

The supervision of the conversion of existing drainage systems to main drainage is under the control of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector. A restricted free emptying service of cesspools and pail closets is operated by the Council under direct labour. A charge was levied in the following circumstances:-

1) Where emptyings are more frequent than once in two months for single properties or once a month where two or more properties drain to one cesspool; and
2) Where a public sewer has been available for use for more than 1 year.

Number of houses on main drainage	3518
Est. number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	1544
Number of pail closets and chemical closets	67
The number of cesspool emptyings during the year was	1556
The number of loads was	3773½

Pail closets are emptied if required once a week during nine months of the year and twice a week during the three summer months. The total emptyings over the year being 4355.

Refuse Collection

The collection and removal of domestic refuse and the collection of salvage is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector and has worked very satisfactorily.

An increasing amount of time is being spent on the removal of bulky items of refused from domestic premises and heavy deposits of litter on road verges, waste land etc.

The number of dustbins emptied during the year was 367,562

Weights of waste paper sold 13 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs.
Amount received for the material £112 8s. 0d.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Regular routine and other inspections were carried out throughout the Rural District.

Factories Act, 1937

(i) Registered Factories

With mechanical power	21
Without mechanical power	15
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	11
	47

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	24	NIL	NIL
Factories without mechanical power	12	NIL	NIL
Other premises	15	NIL	NIL
	51	NIL	NIL

(iii) Defects:

	Found	Remedied	Number of Defects Referred to H.M.	Number of Defects Referred by Inspector	Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
Want of Cleanliness	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or defective	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Verminous Premises

There were no reports of verminous premises.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infestations found and treatments carried out:-

Rats, major	7
Rats, minor	155
Mice, major	NIL
Mice, minor	32

Estimated kill:

Rats	1199
Mice	71

Number of bodies found:

Rats	687
Mice	34

Sewer baiting was carried out in three Parishes and there were "no takes" in all cases.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are 10 sites licensed in the district for the summer months; viz. Capel-le-Ferne - six; Hougham-Without - two; Martin Mill (Langdon) - one; Whitfield - one. Two sites at Capel-le-Ferne are licensed for a total of 22 residential caravans. These sites are generally well operated and controlled. Two transit sites for tents or caravans, attached to existing holiday sites will be in operation in 1969 and it is hoped that this will ease the problems of unauthorised tents on existing caravan sites and the parking of caravans on highway verges.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

Five premises are now licensed and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 21.

One shop was connected to the sewer.
One shop floor was re-constructed.
One shop was provided with a wash-hand basin and hot and cold water supply.
Electrical leads to refrigerators considered dangerous to employees were changed and made safe.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

The Public Health Department are responsible for the supervision of 5 establishments registered under the above-mentioned Act. Inspections were made with the Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. and satisfactory conditions were maintained.

S E C T I O N D

HOUSING

Two Demolition Orders and two Closing Orders were made in respect of four houses which had been inspected in 1967.

Four properties were demolished to comply with Demolition Orders already in operation.

Following formal inspection of two properties negotiations are taking place for the repair and improvement.

One property was officially represented as unfit and not repairable at reasonable cost but the Council deferred consideration for 1 year.

Following a representation from the tenant of one dwellung under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 the owner agreed to give an undertaking to improve the dwelling to the full standard but the formal undertaking had not been completed by the end of the year.

In several other cases informal action was taken to remedy defects.

Nine applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were submitted to the Council and were approved. The total cost on the nine schemes amounted to £6874 13s. 4d. and the grants to £2838 12s. 8d. Five schemes were completed during the year.

Fourteen applications for Standard Improvement Grants were approved. The total costs of the grants permitted amounted to £1860 0s. 0d. Eight schemes were completed during the year.

Two hundred and six dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year and one hundred and sixty nine were under construction at the end of the year.

Four houses and one flat were completed by the Council during the year.

S E C T I O N E

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

During the year regular visits were made to registered premises:-

(a) Number of Registered Distributors 29
(b) Number of Registered Dairies 3

Seven milk samples were taken and all of these samples were found to be satisfactory. Two samples of cream were taken during the year. One failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test and further action was taken to improve the method of storage prior to the cream being put in the cartons.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Under Section 16(1)(a) of the above Act, 54 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. Only pre-packed ice-cream supplied by large manufacturing companies is sold from these premises.

Under Section 16(1)(b) five premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

175 visits were made during the year to registed food premises and food shops in the district.

An investigation was made into a complaint of foreign matter in imported butter but no formal action was necessary as this was an isolated case and it was impossible to ascertain the cause.

Foodstuffs condemned during 1967

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption -

12 lbs. 6 ozs. of canned leg of ham.
53 lbs. fore and hock bacon.

All food condemned is surrendered to the Public Health Inspector and removed to the Council's refuse tip were it is buried.

The shops continued to return most unsound canned foodstuffs to the wholesaler without calling in the Local Authority.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning occurred during the year, but two salmonella infections not considered food borne were reported, one a s. brandenberg in a child and the other an unidentified salmonella in a housewife.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. Disease (excluding Tuberculosis) notified during 1968 by Age Groups (Corrected).

Age Group	**Acute Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	**Infective Jaundice	Acute Meningities
Age Unknown	-	1	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	1	1	-	-
1 year	-	-	1	-	-
2 years	-	-	3	-	-
3 years	-	1	5	-	-
4 years	-	-	5	-	-
5-9 years	-	1	6	-	-
10-14 years	-	1	3	2	-
15-24 years	-	-	-	1	1
25-44 years	-	-	-	-	-
45-64 years	1	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	1	5	24	3	1
Admitted to hospital	1	-	-	-	1

Infective jaundice became generally notifiable under the Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations, 1968, with effect from 15th June, 1968, and remained so when these regulations were revoked and replaced by the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, under which the pneumonias, erysipelas and puerperal pyrexia were no longer notifiable with effect from 1st October, 1968.

2. Immunisation and Vaccination:

The schemes for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation and Smallpox, Poliomyelitis and Measles vaccination continued under the administration of the Kent County Council and the following statistics for 1968 are made available by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer:-

(a) Whooping Cough Immunisation:

230 children received primary immunisation.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover who received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations 233
(b) Re-inforcing Inoculations 249

(c) Smallpox Vaccination:

In view of the amendment of the County Council's proposals under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, regarding records of vaccination against Smallpox the following is the sole information now available:-

Primary Vaccination 1 Year:	Re-vaccination School age but under 8 years:
165	1

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Figures for 1968 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health:-

Year of Birth	Primary	Re-inforcing
1968	58	-
1967	242	-
1966	24	-
1965	3	-
1964	1	17
1961-1963	-	250
1952-1960	-	-
TOTAL	328	267

(e) Measles Vaccination:

260 children in the Rural area received measles vaccination.

3. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(a) Number of cases of tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1968.	47	42	15	16
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year.	1	2	-	-
(c) Other additions to Register	1	-	-	-
* (d) Cases removed from Register during the year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases).	5	5	1	4
Adjusting deduction made as result of check with Registers of Chest Physician.	37	34	13	12
(e) Cases on Register at end of 1968.	7	5	1	Nil

Deaths of unnotified cases of tuberculosis:- One. The deceased was actually an old "recovered" case and the death has been classified as "Other tuberculosis including late effects".

The male patient notified as suffering from pulmonary infection was aged 69 and the females 21 and 44 years respectively.

*The fifteen cases removed from the tuberculosis registers and the adjusting deduction were a result of the exhaustive and detailed check of the Registers undertaken by Dr. J. Spencer Jones in conjunction with the staff of my Department: for a long time it had been apparent that the annual totals carried over were grossly false and unrealistic due to the fact that the Registers had been operating for over half a century without statutory obligation for patients to notify change of address or for that matter to compulsorily attend at clinics. Thus many patients removed or for other reasons became lost to records and the swollen total of registered patients resulted but now principally through the efforts of Dr. Spencer Jones and his staff a more accurate, and fortunately less fearsome, assessment of the prevalence of tuberculosis can be presented.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172:

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant, and where necessary, infected bedding or clothing could be disinfected by arrangement with a neighbouring Authority, but no disinfection was required during the year.

BOARD OF HYGIENE
LIBRARY